

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4525
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLN 1220

STADIS////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

BONN FOR MR. GERMAN

EUR/CE FOR MR. KORNBLUM

WE HAVE FOLLOWING GENERAL AND SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO MAKE
ON INFORMAL PAPER, COPY OF WHICH WAS HAND-CARRIED TO US BY MARSHA
BARNES. IT IS AN EXCELLENT DOCUMENT.

I.GENERAL

A. RE FUTURE SOVIET MOVES

WHILE WE AGREE WITH FIRST-PAGE ASSESSMENT THAT
SOVIET MOVES AGAINST AIR ACCESS TO BERLIN ARE UNLIKELY,
WE HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT FLIGHTS OF FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT
OVER EAST BERLIN, OTHER THAN THOSE USING THE APPROACH
AND DEPARTURE PATHS FOR TEMPELHOF OR TEGEL, PRESENT A
LOGICAL TARGET FOR THE EAST, VERY ANALOGOUS TO THE
MILITARY PATROLS. SOVIETS COULD DESCRIBE THEM AS
ANACHRONISTIC, AND COULD ASK WHAT PURPOSE THEY SERVE.

B. COUNTERACTION IN BERLIN

WE FEEL THAT THE STATEMENT QUOTE THERE IS LITTLE
WE CAN DO OF A CONCRETE NATURE WHICH WILL REALLY
CAUSE DAMAGE TO SOVIET INTERESTS UNQUOTE UNDERSTATES

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THE REAL SITUATION THE SOVIETS
HAVE MADE A VERY CONSIDERABLE INVESTMENT INTO WEST
BERLIN SINCE 1971. THEY ARE INTERESTED IN
THEIR POSITION IN THE WESTERN SECTORS. MOREOVER,
THEY ARE EQUALLY INTERESTED IN A REDUCTION OF THE
FRG PRESENCE. WE HAVE HERE OF VERY
REAL SOVIET AND GDR INTERESTS, CONSTANTLY DISCUSSED

AT HIGH-LEVEL BLOC MEETINGS, AND THEY CAN BE HURT IN BERLN. BUT THE DNAGER WOULD OF COURSE REMAIN THAT IF WE BEGAN TO FREEZE THEM OUT OF WEST BERLIN AND TOBE MOR FLEXIBLE VIS-A-VIS FRG ACTIVITITES, THEY WOULD STILL HAVE THE MEANS AT THEIR DISPOSAL TO ESCALATE THE CONFLICT FURTHER AROUND THE BERLIN FOCUS.

C. FRG ACTIVITIES

VISITS BY HIGH FRG OFFICIALS, BUNDESTAG STATEMENTS AND THE LIKE WOULD HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON THE SOVIETS/GDR IN OUR VIEW. EMLACING OF ADDITIONAL FRG INSTITUTES IN BERLIN MIGHT HAVE THE EFFECT OF SERVING NOTICE ON THE SOVIETS THAT THEIR ACTIONS WERE HAVING AN UNINTENDED EFFECT, BUT WOULD RUN COUNTER TO THE NOW GENERALLY-HELD VIEW, PROPOUNDED FIRSTBY SCHMIDT, THAT PLACING YET ANOTHER PLAQUE ON YET ANOTHER BUILDING FOR ANOTHER OFFICIALS SIMPLY DOES NOTHING FOR BERLIN. A CHANGE IN MANTELGESETZ PROCEDURES, OR THE DIRECT ELECTION OF BERLIN DEPUTIES TO THE EUROEPAN PARLIAMENT, WOULD BE BETTER SIGNALS TO THE EAST THAT IF THEY WISH TO MEDDLE WITH STATUS, WE ARE PREPARED TO DO SO AS WELL. FINALLY, THE FRG IS A CRUCIAL TRADING PARTNER OF BOTH THE SOVIETS AND THE GDR. IF THE FRG WERE WILLING TO TURN OFF THE CREDITS OR SOME OF THEM AND ACCEPT THE RESULTANT PROTESTS OF THAT SEGMENT OF GERMAN INDUSTRY WHICH LIVES ON TRADE WITH THE EAST, THE SOVIETS AND GDR WOULD FEEL THE EFFECT IN THEIR ECONOMIC PLANNING. FOR THE SOVIETS, CHANGING THE STATUS OF BERLIN

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SLIGHTLY AT THE COST OF SOVIET ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SEEMS A HIGH PRICE, WHILE THE GDR WOULD FIND IT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO DELIVER ON THEIR PROMISE OF RISING LIVING STANDARDS WITHOUT THE FULL RANGE OF FRG LARGESSE THEY NOW RECEIVE.

II. SPECIFIC COMMENTS

A. ON PAGE 2 THE PHRASE BERLIN CONTROL CENTER SHOULD BE REPLACED WITH THE WORDS " THEIR HEADQUARTERS".

B. ON PAGE2A THE DESCRIPTION OF FLAG TOURS AND OTHER FORMS OF ALLIED PRESENCE IN EAST BERLIN MIGHT BE AMPLIFIED BY A PARAGRAPH SUMMARIZING THE TYPES AND NUMBERS OF VHEICLES AND PERSONS VISITING EAST BERLIN. OUT STATISTICAL SUMMARY (USBERLIN 1058) OF US FORCES VEHICLES ENTERING EAST BERLIN IN 1976 COULD BE USED.

C. ON PAGE 2A THE WORD " MILITARY" SHOULD BE PUT BETWEEN "SOVIET" AND "VHEICLE" TO DISTINGUISH THESE VEHICLES FROM WEST BERLIN-BASED SOVIET OFFICIALS.

D. AS REGARDS " POSSIBLE EASTERN

STEPS" WE WOULD ADD A FOURTH CATEGORY, NAMELY,
PROVOCATIONS, THAT IS, ATTEMPTS AT TRICKING
PATROL PERSONNEL INTO INAPPROPRIATE ACTIONS--DECOY
REQUESTS, BLACK MARKET OR CURRENCY DEALS, EXFILTRA-
TIONS--WHICH ARE ILLEGAL UNDER GDR LAW. THIS
CATEGORY SHOULD PERHAPS PRECEDE ACTUAL HARASSMENT.

E. YOU REFER TO A RE-INSTITUTING THE PRACTICE
OF PATROLLING THE AUTOBAHN " WHICH WAS ABANDONED
SEVERAL YEARS AGO." THIS PRACTICE WHICH WAS
IMPLEMENTED SHORTLY AFTER THE WAR WAS ALLOWED BY
US TO STROPHY IN THE TP'S, WHEN THE SOVIETS THEN
CHALLENGED OUR PRACTICE OF ESCORTING CONVOYS,
IN 1958-59 WE STRENGTHENED OUR CONVOY ESCORT

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 USBERLIN 1220

STADIS////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

BONN FOR MR. GERMAN
EUR/CE FOR MR. KORNBLUM

PROCEDURES AND RESUMED PATROLLING BY INDIVIDUAL
MP VEHICLES, BUT WE DROPPED THE PARTOLLING IN 1961
UNDER SOVIET PRESSURE (1966 BERLIN A-626). THE
BRITISH DO HAVE A DAILY MILITARY POLICE "SWEEP" OF
THE AUTOBAHN BUT DO NOT ESCORT CONVOYS. WE LIKE THE
SUGGESTION OF RESUMPTION OF THESE ESCORTS AS IT IS A
REVERSIBLE COUNTERMEASURE. THE SOVIETS/GDR WILL
CERTAINLY NOTICE IT BUT IT WILL MOST UNLIKELY PASS
UNNOTICED BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

F. AS REGARDS FRG ACTIVITIES IN WEST BERLIN

(PAGE 9), WE THINK THE SENTENCE REFERRING TO THE QA BARGAIN LEADING TO A FURTHER REDUCTION OF FEDERAL PRESENCE IS INACCURATE. THE OVERALL TREND HAS BEEN A GROWTH IN THIS PRESENCE. ADMITTEDLY, THE QA CURTAILED OFFICIAL ACTS OF THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT FRG AND FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY BODIES BUT WE THINK THE SENTENCE IN QUESTION OVERSTATES THE CASE.

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G. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE IT WOULD NOT BE ADVISABLE, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE QA OR OTHERWISE, TO SEEK NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS IN WHICH THE EXERCISE OF OUR RIGHTS IN EAST BERLIN WOULD BE AT STAKE.

H. AS REGARDS COUNTERMEASURES IN BERLIN, SPECIFICALLY THOSE RELATED TO A DETENTION OF AN ALLIED FLAG TOUR (PAGE 14), WE THINK DELAYS IN ISSUING ACCREDITATION TO CONGEN AND OTHER STAFF MEMBERS COULD ONLY BE EFFECTIVE IF THE SOVIETS KNEW WE WERE DELAYING. THAT IS, WE WOULD HAVE TO TELL THEM. EVEN IN THIS SITUATION IT MIGHT NOT MEAN MUCH BECAUSE OUR ACCREDITATION PROCEDURE IS NOTORIOUSLY SLOW. IT GENERALLY TAKES THIRTY DAYS.

I. AS REGARDS THE COUNTERMEASURE ON PAGE 16 CONCERNING SURVEILLANCE OF SOVIET VEHICLES BY "ALLIED MILITARY POLICE VEHICLES", WE WOULD CONSIDER THAT WEST BERLIN POLICE VEHICLES COULD ALSO BE USED, BECAUSE SOVIET CIVILIAN VEHICLES ARE SUBJECT TO GERMAN LAW IN EFFECT IN THE WESTERN SECTORS.

J. AS NOTED IN USBERLIN 1038 (REPEATED TO STATE 27 APRIL), A STEP INVOLVING THE SOVIET PRESENCE AT THE WAR MEMORIAL WOULD RAISE A VERY EMOTIONAL REACTION ON THE PART OF THE SOVIETS. THIS IS A MEMORIAL TO RUSSIAN SOLDIERS KILLED IN THE FINAL ASSAULT ON BERLIN, AND WE KNOW THE BRITISH FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT PLACING THIS COUNTERMEASURE CLOSE TO THE LAST ONE ON THE LIST.

K. ALSO, CERTAIN OF THE DESCRIPTIONS IN THE PAPER WHICH ARE ATTRIBUTED TO "ALLIED" ACTIVITIES AND PRACTICES ARE IN FACT DESCRIPTIONS OF US ACTIVITIES. THE EXACT DETAILS ON FRENCH AND BRITISH

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ACTIVITIES CAN PROBABLY BE BEST ASSEMBLED AND
PROVIDED BY THE BONN GROUP. WE BELIEVE THE BONN
GROUP SHOULD START EXAMINING COUNTERMEASURES NOW
THAT THE REPLIES TO THE SOVIET PROTESTS HAVE BEEN
DELIVERED. GEORGE

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